

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) An incinerator for burning combustible material comprising:
  - a burn container for holding combustible materials,
  - ~~a first material fill opening near an upward portion of said burn container,~~
  - ~~a lid covering said first material fill opening~~ a lid covering said burn containersuch that said burn container is closed except for an exhaust and a controlled air plenum,
  - a blower motor controlling a flow of air into said first container through said air plenum,
  - a removable pre-fill chamber mounted adjacent a ~~second~~ first opening in said ~~upper portion of lid covering~~ said burn container,
  - a plunger mounted platen adapted to move through said chamber toward a trap door, a third said trap door opening in said pre-fill chamber such that said ~~second and said third openings are aligned~~ pre-filled chamber is open to said burn container when said pre-fill chamber is mounted on said incinerator such that combustible material can pass from said pre-fill chamber through said ~~second and third~~ trap door openings into the upper portion of said burn container while said lid is closed.
2. (Original) The incinerator as recited in Claim 1, wherein said burn container has a barrel shape.
3. (Currently Amended) The incinerator as recited in Claim 1, wherein ~~said pre-fill chamber includes a door over said third opening and a~~ said plunger is a manual plunger ~~to force material from said pre-fill chamber through said third opening.~~
4. (Currently Amended) The incinerator as recited in Claim 3, wherein said trap door is normally held closed ~~but is forced open when said manual plunger forces material through said third opening.~~
5. (Currently Amended) An incinerator for burning combustible materials comprising:
  - a burn container for holding materials,
  - ~~a first material fill opening near an upper end portion of said burn container,~~
  - wherein said burn container is closed except for an exhaust,

an air plenum,

a pre-fill chamber ~~adjacent a second opening, said second opening in said~~  
attachable to a lid on said burn container adjacent a first opening in said lid,

a ~~third trap door opening, said third trap door opening in said pre-fill chamber~~  
such that a plunger can move a platen through said chamber while said second and  
~~said third openings are aligned in sealing relationship when said pre-fill chamber is~~  
~~mounted on said incinerator such that combustible material can pass from said pre-fill~~  
~~chamber through said second and third opening into the upper end portion of said burn~~  
~~container while said lid is closed.~~

6. (Currently Amended) The incinerator as recited in Claim 5, wherein the burn container has a cylindrical shape and said lid has trunion stops for removably mounting said pre-filled chamber to said burn container adjacent said first opening in said lid so that said pre-fill chamber covers said first opening.

7. (Currently Amended) The incinerator as recited in Claim 5, wherein said pre-fill chamber is removable and includes a first door over said ~~third trap door opening~~  
wherein said plunger includes a handle outside said pre-fill chamber attached to a rod passing into said pre-fill chamber and wherein said rod is attached to said platen and a plunger to force material from said pre-fill chamber through said third opening.

8. (Currently Amended) The incinerator as recited in Claim 7, wherein said ~~second opening lid~~ includes a second weighted door that automatically closes is closed when said pre-fill chamber is removed from said burn container.

9. (Currently Amended) The incinerator as recited in Claim 8, wherein said first door is normally held closed but is ~~forced~~ adapted to open when said plunger moves towards it ~~forces material through said second and said third openings.~~

10. (Original) A pre-fill chamber for use in combination with an incinerator, said pre-fill chamber comprising:

a material container,

an opening covered by a door,

a plunger operable to force open said door and to force material contained in said container through said opening,

means to position said pre-fill chamber on a lid of an incinerator,  
means allowing said pre-fill chamber to be filled with a combustible material.

11. (Currently Amended) A combination pre-fill chamber and incinerator lid, said combination comprising:

a pre-fill chamber mountable adjacent a first opening in said lid,  
a plunger operable to move a platen through said pre-fill chamber,

a second opening, said second opening in said pre-fill chamber such that said first and second opening are aligned in sealing relationship when said pre-fill chamber is mounted on said incinerator lid such that combustible material can pass from said pre-fill chamber through said first and second opening,

wherein said pre-fill chamber can be moved from a material loading position to a material unloading position wherein said pre-fill chamber is mounted adjacent said first opening in said lid.

12. (Cancel)

13. (Cancel)

14. (Original) The combination as recited in Claim 13, wherein said second opening is covered by a hinged door.

15. (Original) The combination as recited in Claim 13, including a side door in said pre-fill chamber, said side door allowing combustible material to be placed in said pre-fill chamber prior to said pre-fill chamber being mounted on said lid.

16. (Original) The combination as recited in Claim 15, wherein said lid includes an exhaust for an incinerator and latches to attach said incinerator lid to said incinerator.

17. (Currently Amended) An incinerator for burning combustible material comprising:

a burn container for holding combustible materials,  
a first material fill opening near an upper portion of said burn container,  
a lid covering said first material fill opening such that said burn container is closed except for an exhaust and a controlled air plenum,  
a blower motor controlling a flow of air into said first container through said air

plenum,

a second opening, said second opening in said lid,

a closure covering said second opening,  
a removable pre-fill chamber adapted to hold combustible material,  
said closure hinged to open upon ~~inserting~~ placing an end of said pre-fill chamber  
~~into~~ adjacent to said second opening such that said burn container remains closed upon  
~~insertion~~ placing of said end of said pre-fill chamber on said lid.

18. (Currently Amended) A method of incinerating combustible material including the steps of:

starting a fire within a container,  
closing said container with a lid,  
filling a pre-fill chamber with combustible material,  
aligning at least a portion of said pre-fill chamber with an opening on said lid,  
pushing from said pre-fill chamber said combustible material through said  
opening with a plunger and into said fire while said container remains closed.

19. (Original) The method as recited in Claim 18, wherein said step of starting said fire includes a step of supplying air to said fire through a plenum.

20. (Original) The method as recited in Claim 18, wherein said step of aligning includes sealing said portion of said pre-fill chamber against said lid.

21. (Currently Amended) An incinerator for burning combustible material comprising:

a burn container for holding combustible materials,  
a first material fill opening near an upward portion of said burn container,  
a lid covering said first material fill opening such that said burn container is closed except for an exhaust and a controlled air plenum, a blower motor controlling a flow of air into said first container through said air plenum,  
a second opening near an upward portion of said burn container,  
a closure adapted to ~~covering~~ said second opening,  
wherein the closure can close ~~automatically closes~~ when material is no longer being inserted into the second opening,

a pre-fill chamber, adapted to be filled with material, adapted to be filled with material, mounted adjacent said second opening, said pre-fill chamber including a plunger driven platen movable through said pre-fill chamber.

22. (Currently Amended) The incinerator as recited in Claim 21, wherein the closure having a ~~waited~~ weighted end.

23. (Original) The incinerator as recited in Claim 21, wherein the closure plate is pivotally attached to an edge disposed adjacent to the second opening defining a pivot point, wherein the closure plate pivots on the pivot point to an open position or a closed position.

Claim 6 claims trunion stops on the lid removably mounting the pre-fill chamber. Brennan fails to show a movable pre-fill chamber. The movable aspect is important as the pre-fill chamber can be filled with hazardous waste where the waste occurs and it can be brought to the incinerator without the need to double handle the waste.

Brennan fails to show the pre-fill chamber as disclosed and claimed in Claim 10. Specifically, Claim 10 includes the limitation that the pre-fill chamber comprises "a material container, an opening covered by a door and a plunger operable to force open said door and to force material contained in said container through said opening." Examiner interprets chute 4 as a material container. It is contrary to the teaching of Brennan for the chute 4 to contain the material. Material drops through the chute 4 but whenever material is in the chute 4 the door 8 is open, material held in chute 4 would be considered an undesirable clogging and there would be no easy way to clear such a clog. As such, the chute 4 in Brennan is not a material container as disclosed and claimed. The door 8 is not forced open by a plunger as disclosed and claimed. The door 8 would normally open by weight but is held closed by the chain 9. There is no plunger in Brennan as disclosed and claimed. Brennan simply allows material to fall by the force of gravity.

Claim 11 as amended now contains the limitation that the pre-fill chamber can be moved from a material load position to a material unload position adjacent an opening in said lid. Claim 11 also includes the limitation of the plunger not shown in Brennan.

Amended Claim 18 now includes the limitation "pushing from said pre-fill chamber said combustible material through said opening with a plunger and into said fire while said container remains closed". With Brennan there is no plunger and so the incinerator 1 must be open while material is placed on the fire.

Claim 20 includes the step of sealing. The device of Brennan is not sealed during fill operations or even during burning. During fill the doors 6 and 8 open allowing fumes to escape. Even when closed, the door 6 and 8 will not seal.

Examiner rejects Claim 1 – 4 and 21 – 23 as unpatentable over Brennan in view of Fontaine. Brennan is used as discussed above while Fontaine is used to show a blower. The present claims contain the limitation of the plunger control platen and

removable pre-fill chamber as discussed above and are felt to be allowable based on these limitations not shown in either Brennan or Fontaine.

Claims 15 – 17 were indicated to be allowable over the prior art if amended to contain the limitation of the base claims. These claims remain in the case. It is noted that Claim 17 is an independent claim.

Claims 8 and 9 were indicated to be allowable if amended to contain the limitation of the base claims and if the objections under 35 USC 112 were corrected. These claims remain in the case and the objected to language has been corrected by either showing the claimed item in the drawings or by eliminating it from the claim or by amending the claim. No new matter has been added.